



# THE COMPTROLLER'S CORNER

On behalf of the FM community, I want to congratulate the Honorable F. Whitten Peters on his appointment as Secretary of the Air Force. Mr Peters, who has served as Under Secretary and Acting Secretary since October 1997, was officially sworn-in as Secretary on August 2, 1999. I want to welcome Major General Larry W. Northington as my new Deputy Assistant Secretary (Budget). He officially assumed his new responsibilities on July 6, 1999. General Northington is a former Wing Commander and former Director of Manpower (AF/XPM). Most recently he served as Deputy Director of Legislative Liaison (SAF/LL).

I also want to remind you of our guidelines for professional development, which call for FM professionals to complete 10 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) in calendar 1999. We are working to make CPE readily available throughout the FM community. The article in this issue by Colonel Pesola (page 6) suggests some new approaches such as magazine articles on our Home Page and in this magazine. We will also soon be sending out a tape of selected presentations from the ASMC National Professional Development Institute. These new CPE sources are intended to supplement those already available.

This is a dynamic time for FM professionals. We are undergoing significant changes in our business practices at the same time that changes are occurring in budgets and policies that affect FM. We must all stay current on these important issues if we are to be effective as financial managers. A well-planned program of continuing professional education can help you stay current. I am personally well along in completing the 1999 CPE requirement. I hope you will join me.

**ROBERT F. HALE**

**Assistant Secretary of the Air Force  
(Financial Management and Comptroller)**